

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the case of heating the work held apart from the heating surface, if the Rmax value of the heating surface exceeds 200 μm , a turbulence of gas flow is created in the space between the work and the heating surface so that the heat is locally built up to cause a temperature distribution in the work. On the other hand, if the Rmax value is less than 0.05 μm , the temperature distribution of the heating surface is directly reflected on the work by radiant heat so that a temperature distribution is created. Thus, the range of Rmax = 0.05 to 200 μm is a characteristic range of surface roughness suited for the heating mode in which the work is held apart from the heating surface and heated in a gaseous heat transfer medium.